Apollo Hospitals recently announced that it has entered into an agreement with US-based Anthem Well Point through its subsidiaries for treating patients recommended by the insurance company. Anthem Well Point will send the patients to Apollo Hospitals in Bangalore and Delhi, and later it will send to all CII accredited hospitals of the chain. Apollo will cover 700 members of the US-based group and their dependents, under blue cross and blue shield plans offered by Well Point.

SPORTS INJURY CENTRE TAKES PLACE IN NEW DELHI

Safdarjung hospital is all geared up in high spirits for Commonwealth Games 2010 and is getting a world class sports injury centre. The union ministry of health has sanctioned Rs 70 crore for the project. The seven floor structure will have modern diagnostic facilities like the MRI, CT scan and digital X-ray facilities in the basement. The centre would have a physiotherapy centre and an exclusive sports injury unit. The 3 OTs will be complete with all latest equipments to provide state of art surgical treatment at par with international standards.

INDIA TOPS WORLD HUNGER CHART

According to a report brought out by United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), India ranks 94th in the global hunger index of 119 countries. Among other staggering findings are that more than 250 million people in India are undernourished highest for any country in the world. More than 27% of the world's undernourished population lives in India. 43% of children (under 5 years) in the country are underweight malnutrition accounts for nearly 50% of child death. Every third adult (aged 15-49 years) in the country is reported to be thin (BMI less than 18.5).

POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE AT RML BECOMES A REALITY

RML has become the first hospital in Delhi to boast of a Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. Union health minister Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss on Wednesday inaugurated the Rs 60 crore building spread across 24000 m². Apart from the medical college, RML is all set to get autonomous status on the lines of AIIMS & PGI Chandigarh.

315 MILLION NEED HEALTH INSURANCE: CII

Confederation of Indian Industry CII estimated that there are 315 million people needing insurance with an approximately potential of $ 7700 million in health insurance premium by 2015. CII insists that healthcare should be given “infrastructure on priority” status. Since the percentage of Indian population having some form of health insurance is very less, the potential market for health insurance is huge.

UNBRANDED GENERIC DRUGS TO BE SOLD AT PEOPLE’S SHOP

The centre is planning to open 40 “Jan Aushadi shops” (people’s medicine shops) all over the country by March 4 where generic medicines will be sold at half the price of branded medicines. The first such shop was opened in Amritsar on November 25 last year.

WORLD BANK LENDS $518 MILLION FOR FIGHTING DISEASES

The INDIAN government received an interest free loan from World Bank group which would be used for increasing the number of people benefitting from effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment services for malaria, kala-azar and vaccination against polio.
GUJARAT CANCER SOCIETY TO PUMP IN 722 CRORES TO UPGRADE CANCER HOSPITALS

The executive board and general board of Gujarat Cancer Society (GCS), has recently approved an ambitious plan to convert the hospital into a super speciality cancer care and research institute that will provide treatment at par with international standards by pumping in INR 722 crores, which will be available through public-private partnership. The number of beds in the cancer hospital will be increased from current 650 to 1000.

HEPATITIS B EPIDEMIC IN GUJARAT DISTRICTS KILLS 35

The mortality rate of hepatitis B virus infected patients was assumed menacing proportions at Modasa in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat with a death count of 35. The medical practitioners and government officials are looking at the outbreak as one of the more virulent strains of Hepatitis B that may have undergone some mutations.

UPA PUTS MAJOR FUNDS IN RURAL HEALTH BASKET

Medical and public health budget (2009-10) of Rs. 15,580 crore, allocated Rs.12, 056 crore to the National Rural Health Mission. Under Pradhan Mantri Swastha Yojna (647 crores) six institutes modelled under AIIMS are being built and 13 government institutes are being upgraded. List also includes 30 crore for anti-tobacco program, 10 crore for pilot phase of national programme against deafness and Rs. 534 crore for traditional medicine. Comparatively urban health mission was funded minimally.

HEALTH SCIENCES ONLINE LAUNCHES A WEBSITE FOR FREE e-HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Sciences Online (www.hso.info) has launched a website where anyone can access more than 50,000 courses, references, guidelines, and other expert-reviewed, high-quality, current, cost-free, and ad-free health sciences resources. The up-to-date, authoritative information is aimed primarily at healthcare practitioners and public health providers, enabling their training, continuing education, and delivery of effective treatments to patients. Founding collaborators for this site include CDC, World Bank, the American College of Preventive Medicine, and the University of British Columbia and financial support has come from WHO, the NATO Science for Peace Program, the Canadian government, the Amenberry Physician Training Program.

INGREDIENT LIST ON FOOD PACKS FROM MARCH 18TH

Packaged food, including colas, available in market on or after March 18th shall display a list of ingredients as required by a new consumer-friendly food safety law. Also, the government said that it will implement the food and safety standards act 2006 that lays down safety standards for packaged food.

RECENT RESEARCHES

STEM CELLS WORK MAGIC ON MAN WITH AIDS

A German AIDS patient stopped taking medication after getting transplanted of stem cells from a donor with a rare gene variant known to resist AIDS. The donor was among the 1% of Caucasians who have the variant gene lacking the section known as CCR5 that helps the HIV virus enter the cell.

FOUR MILLION AMERICANS LOST HEALTH INSURANCE SINCE RECESSION Began

An estimated 4 million Americans have lost their health insurance since the recession began, and as many as 14,000 people could be losing their health coverage every day, according to a report by the Centre for American Progress Action Fund. The report also indicates that at least half of the 4 million who lost their insurance coverage still are uninsured.

63% DELHI KIDS UNDER SIX YEARS HAVE ANAEMIA

According to alternate reports on the status of young children in India, nearly 63% of children (0-6 yrs age group) in Delhi suffer from anaemia. This study was carried out by Plan India, organisation working for child rights and child services.

NOTE: The newsletter is open for inclusion of any information or advertisement; however selection of information will be governed by the SYNAPSE Team, IIHMR, New Delhi

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